



Afternoon Alert - Monday, February 6, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports that the Okinawa Defense Bureau resumed its reclamation work at Henoko this morning, showing local protesters trying to block trucks from entering Camp Schwab. NHK quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling reporters today: "The Supreme Court ruled last December that [Governor Onaga's] rescindment of Okinawa's approval for the land reclamation work at Henoko was illegal. Japan is a nation governed by the rule of law. The government and Okinawa should follow the Supreme Court's decision and the reconciliation settlement reached last March and cooperate with each other to handle the matter in good faith so that the reclamation work can move forward." TV Asahi gave top play to a report that an NHK reporter in Yamagata was arrested on charges of sexually assaulting a woman last February.

OPINION POLLS

Poll shows 47% think U.S.-Japan relations will remain unchanged under Trump

TBS reported on the results of its opinion survey conducted over the weekend, which showed that public approval for the Abe cabinet was 65.4%, down 1.6 points from last month, and nonsupport was 33.4%, up 1.9 points. On President Trump's executive order on immigration, 11% welcomed it, while 82% did not. Regarding the global situation, 64% of respondents said it will worsen under President Trump's policies, 25% said it will remain unchanged, and 2% said it will get better. On U.S.-Japan relations under the new Trump administration, 47% said they will remain the same, 38% said they will worsen, and 4% said they will get better. Public support for the LDP was 33.9%, down 4.8 points, while support for the Democratic Party rose 0.6 points to 7.3%.

- [Highlights of the January 2017 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Abe tells Mattis Japan will increase defense spending](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe, Mattis show alliance unshakable / Meeting in Tokyo sends strong message to China](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of Abe-Mattis meeting, Feb. 3](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe, Mattis reaffirm U.S. commitment on Senkakus](#) (The Japan News)
- [Pentagon chief: No need for military moves in East, South China seas](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [US reiterates commitment to protect key ally Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Senkakus being 'subject to security treaty' should be basis for cooperation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Personnel changes at Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gist of Inada-Mattis meeting, joint news conference, Feb. 4](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan in Depth / Govt relieved by Mattis' stance on cost of U.S. forces](#) (The Japan News)
- [Mattis shines as key security policy official in Trump administration](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Mattis' Japan visit welcome, but Trump policy worries remain](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Mattis and Inada](#) (Asahi)
- [Containing Trump's "outrageous remarks" said to be another purpose of Mattis' Asia tour](#) (Nikkei)
- [Toyota president says he had 'good discussion' with Abe](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Abe putting cart before the horse with economic pledge for U.S.](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Trump's wall looms large on Mazda's export horizon](#) (Asahi)

- [Editorial: Trump's allegations of yen manipulation threaten global stability](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Is Trump's immigration order effective in preventing terrorism?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Who's behind the mysterious Twitter account translating President Trump's tweets into Japanese?](#) (BuzzFeed)

SECURITY

- [Governor Onaga greeted Secretary of State Tillerson in Washington](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Discussions on 1% GDP cap on defense spending may be reignited](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Onaga's appeals over air base rebuffed in U.S.](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Seeking Nature Heritage status](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Campaign starts for Urasoe mayoral election in Okinawa](#) (Sankei)
- [Defense Ministry expressed concern in 2013 about Osprey deployment to Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Record-high 128 billion cyber-attacks logged in Japan](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on February 3](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on February 4](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on February 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Feb. 3](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe studying Trump for lessons for Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tokyo governor mulls fielding 60+ candidates in assembly election after Chiyoda victory](#) (Asahi)
- [72% say they want new party to win Tokyo Assembly election, Asahi Shimbun poll](#) (Asahi)

- [Koizumi allows non-affiliated lawmakers to attend LDP division meetings under certain conditions](#) (Mainichi)
- [JCP leads united opposition front](#) (Yomiuri)

ECONOMY

- [Government spending needed due to deteriorating effectiveness of monetary easing](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Ono Pharmaceutical readies heavy dose of US acquisitions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's farm operators eyeing Asian production](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan Fisheries Agency to set legal tuna catch limit, overfishing penalties](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan to consider saying OK to ride sharing](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Keidanren to name three new vice chairmen](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

- [Japan to promote research on civilian and military-use technology](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [Justice Ministry presents examples of hate speech](#) (Kyodo News)

TV PROGRAMS

Defense minister, scholars discuss Secretary Mattis' visit to Japan

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show aired an interview with Defense Minister Inada.

Concerning her first meeting with Secretary of Defense Mattis on Saturday in Tokyo, Inada stated that she confirmed with the Secretary that the U.S.-Japan alliance will continue to be strong under the new U.S. administration and that the strengthened alliance between the two nations will be important not only for Japan but also for the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. The defense minister commented on the Secretary's statement that the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article 5 of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty by saying that the Secretary's statement is significant because it clarified the new U.S. administration's position. Inada added that the two nations confirmed their

opposition to China's moves to unilaterally change the status quo in the South China Sea. The minister said that Japan will step up its defense capabilities both in quantity and quality to strengthen its alliance with the U.S. in view of the changing security environment surrounding the nation.

The latter half of the program was dedicated to a discussion of Secretary Mattis' visit to Japan by Takushoku University Chancellor Satoshi Morimoto, Keio University Professor Yoshihide Soeya, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies Professor Narushige Michishita, and Waseda University Professor Chikako Ueki. All of the panelists said the visit was a success because Secretary Mattis assured Japan that the bilateral alliance will remain strong.

China's air pollution

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" carried a report on air pollution in China, saying that it causes about 1 million deaths every year. The Xi administration has announced that it will spend more than 28 trillion yen on countermeasures against air pollution by 2017 and pledged to cut PM2.5 levels by about 45% by 2022. The program reported on people suffering from air pollution over the last two years and eight months, focusing on cities where residents living near factories are dying of cancer. While the national government is reportedly aiming to reduce air pollution, local governments and companies are failing to comply with environmental measures. The program followed a group of mothers who are fighting against local governments and companies in an effort to secure a cleaner environment for their children.